

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended): A method of using a delegated connection table, comprising:
selecting, by a transmission control protocol (TCP) stack, a connection for processing by an offload unit;
initializing an entry in the delegated connection table with connection state corresponding to [[a]]the connection selected by [[a]]the transmission control protocol (TCP) stack for processing by [[an]]the offload unit;
updating the entry when a first frame is received for the connection, wherein a sequence number in the first frame is stored in the entry;
parsing the first frame to extract TCP payload data;
uploading the TCP payload data to a memory; and
reading the entry when a second frame is transmitted for the connection.
2. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 1, further comprising updating the entry by copying a portion of the second frame into a portion of the entry in the delegated connection table when the second frame is transmitted.
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 1, further comprising uploading payload data to a location specified in the entry within a memory space of the memory that is allocated to an application program.
5. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 1, further comprising notifying the TCP stack when the TCP payload data of the first frame received is uploaded by the offload

unit to at least one legacy buffer that is in a portion of the memory that is allocated to a driver configured to interface between the offload unit and an application program.

6. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the TCP payload data of the first frame is uploaded to a legacy buffer that is in a portion of the memory that is allocated to a driver configured to interface between the offload unit and an application program.
7. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 - receiving a third frame that does not correspond to another entry in the delegated connection table; and
 - uploading the third frame to a legacy buffer that is in a portion of the memory that is allocated to a driver configured to interface between the offload unit and an application program.
8. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 6, ~~wherein a sequence number in the first frame does not correspond to a sequence number stored in the delegated connection table-1, further comprising:~~
 - determining that the first frame and the second frame are out-of-sequence based on a comparison of the sequence number stored in the entry with a sequence number in the second frame; and
 - storing a flag in the entry to indicate that synchronization is requested for the connection.
9. (Cancelled)
10. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 1, further comprising uploading the payload data of the first frame to at least one legacy buffer that is in a first portion of

the memory that is allocated to a driver configured to interface between the offload unit and an application program when a user buffer in a second portion of the memory that is allocated to the application program is not available.

11. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 8, further comprising notifying the application program to complete processing of the first second frame.
12. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 8, further comprising uploading any subsequent frames received for the connection, to one or more additional legacy buffers, until resynchronization is signaled by the TCP stack.
13. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 12, wherein the resynchronization is accomplished by ~~observing ACK numbers generated by the TCP stack~~ sending an acknowledge for the second frame, and invalidating any buffer descriptors for portions of the memory that are available for storing data received on the connection.
14. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 12, further comprising:
determining ~~an ACK~~ that the sequence number in ~~[[a]]~~ the second frame transmitted ~~for the connection~~ is more advanced than ~~[[a]]~~ the sequence number stored in the entry;
and
copying the ACK number to the sequence number portion of the entry
sending an acknowledge for the first frame; and
invalidating any buffer descriptors for portions of the memory that are available for storing data received on the connection.
15. (Currently Amended): A method of accessing a delegated connection table during processing of a received frame, comprising:

reading a connection match portion of the delegated connection table, wherein the connection match portion of the delegated connection table stores delegated connections that are selected, by a transmission control protocol (TCP) stack, for processing by an offload unit that includes the delegated connection table;

determining the received frame corresponds to an entry in the connection match portion of the delegated connection table;

reading a connection data portion of the delegated connection table that stores an expected sequence number, an acknowledgment (ACK) number, timestamp data, and a count of unACKnowledged frames in the entry; and

parsing the received frame to produce payload data.

16. (Original): The method of claim 15, further comprising:

modifying a portion of connection state data stored in the connection data portion of the delegated connection table.

17. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 15, further comprising:

reading a connection buffer portion of the delegated connection table to obtain user buffer information including a user buffer address and a corresponding user buffer length of a user buffer that is stored in a portion of memory allocated to an application program.

18. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 17, further comprising:

determining the user buffer information indicates a user buffer is not available; and
requesting a user buffer by setting a request buffer flag in the connection buffer portion of the delegated connection table.

19. (Original): The method of claim 17, further comprising uploading the payload data to the user buffer.

20. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 18, further comprising:

determining a receive buffer has reached a high water mark; and

uploading the payload data to a legacy buffer that is in a portion of the memory that is allocated to a driver configured to interface between the application program and [[an]]the offload unit including the delegated connection table.

21. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 18, further comprising:

determining a buffer request timer has expired; and

uploading the payload data to a legacy buffer that is in a portion of the memory that is allocated to a driver configured to interface between the application program and [[an]]the offload unit including the delegated connection table.

22. (Currently Amended): A delegated connection table for storing delegated connection information, comprising:

a first storage resource configured to store user buffer information for delegated connections including a user buffer length and a user buffer address corresponding to a portion of memory that is allocated to an application program; and

a second storage resource configured to store delegated connection state information for the delegated connections including an expected sequence number, an acknowledgment (ACK) number, timestamp data, and a count of unACKnowledged frames; and

a third storage resource configured to store delegated connection identification information for the delegated connections including a destination IP address, a source IP address, a source transmission control protocol (TCP) port, and a destination TCP port, wherein the delegated connections are selected, by a transmission control protocol (TCP) stack, for processing by an offload unit that includes the delegated connection table.

23. (Cancelled)
24. (Original): The delegated connection table of claim 22, further comprising a command processing unit configured to write to the first storage resource.
25. (Previously Presented): The delegated connection table of claim 22, further comprising a transmit engine configured to access the second storage resource and perform outbound frame processing.
26. (Previously Presented): The delegated connection table of claim 22, further comprising a receive engine configured to access the second storage resource and parse incoming frames and determine whether or not the incoming frames are valid.
27. (Original): The delegated connection table of claim 26, wherein the receive engine is configured to read the first storage resource.
28. (Original): The delegated connection table of claim 26, wherein the receive engine is configured to read the third storage resource.
29. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 1, wherein the updating of the entry when the first frame is received for the connection includes clearing an unACKnowledged count, updating an acknowledgment (ACK) number with a last ACKnowledged number, and updating [[a]]the sequence number with an incremental sequence number that is stored in the entry.
30. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 16, wherein the modifying of the portion of the connection state data includes clearing an unACKnowledged count, updating the acknowledgment (ACK) number with a last ACKnowledged number, and updating the expected sequence number with an incremental sequence number.

31. (New): The delegated connection table of claim 22, wherein the delegated connections specified by the delegated connection table are a subset of active connections stored in a connection table within a system memory.